

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18 are all the claims pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 17 and 19-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-2, 8, 9 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enoki (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,571; hereinafter “Enoki”). Claims 3-7, 10-12 and 15-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 8-9 & 13-14 under § 103(a) by Enoki

Claim 1 includes the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 17.

Allowable dependent claims 3, 5 and 18 are rewritten in independent form.

Applicant adds the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 19 into claim 8 and adds the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 20 into claim 13. Applicant also rewrites allowable dependent claims 10 and 15 in independent form.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 10/724,039

ATTY DOCKET NO.: Q78341

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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